IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image storage unit that stores configured to store a plurality of types of image data in a first data format [[and]] that is compressed;

a data format converter that converts configured to convert the first data format of the image data to a second data format being a general data format; and

a communicator including

a communication interface that transmits configured to transmit the image data of the first data format and together with the image data of the second data format as reference image data for the image data of the first data format to an external device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an expandor that expands expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a multinary unit that converts configured to convert image data expanded of low bits to multinary image data; and

a data compressor that compresses configured to compress the multinary image data

[[in]] into a multinary general compression format.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an expandor that expands expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a binary unit that converts configured to convert the image data expanded, which is monochrome multinary image data, to binary image data; and

a data compressor that compresses configured to compress the binary image data in a binary general compression format.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

a color space converter that converts configured to convert a color space of the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is color multinary image data, to a general color space.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

at least one resolution converter of a multinary resolution converter that performs configured to perform resolution conversion on the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is multinary image data; and

a binary resolution converter that performs configured to perform resolution conversion on [[the]] binary image data.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the <u>at least one</u> resolution converter <u>performs</u> is <u>configured to perform</u> resolution conversion on image data at a conversion rate such that [[the]] resolution of the image data as a base of conversion and a resolution after the conversion are fallen <u>fall</u> into a predetermined range.

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Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an imaging unit that forms configured to form an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored in the image storage unit, wherein a printing function is combined with the imaging unit to adapt the first data format of the image data stored in the image storage unit to a data format used in the imaging unit.